

ARTICLE APPEARED
PAGE 1-AWASHINGTON TIMES
8 July 1985

How East German proxy does KGB's 'dirty work'

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

East Germany has emerged as Moscow's prime surrogate for proping up Marxist dictatorships in the Third World, according to U.S. officials and non-government experts.

With Prussian precision, the machinery for suppressing coups and populations uneasy under Marxist control is crafted in East Germany and operated abroad by East Germans.

U.S. officials agree that East Germany plays a unique role as the main supplier of security and intelligence advisers for newly emerging

Marxist-Leninist states.

East Germans have become the world's foremost specialists in establishing, and then dominating, the intelligence and security apparatus of various Marxist-Leninist regimes and movements.

In Libya, for example, there are reports that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of East German security trainers there play a major role in protecting the radical regime of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

There are reports the East German protectors have staved off several attempts to oust the Libyan dictator. One case occurred in August 1980 when East German

advisers led Libyan troops loyal to Col. Qaddafi in a successful effort to put down a revolt in the Libyan city of Tobruk.

According to Western press accounts of the incident, some 400 dissident Libyan troops were killed in the battle. After the episode, a special Military Security Bureau was established with the help of the East Germans to prevent future uprisings.

By crushing all opposition forces, controlling populations and standing guard against coups, East German specialists have provided

Marxist-Leninist regimes from South Yemen to Nicaragua with tight internal security control. Other beneficiaries of East German security police include such states as Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, and such movements as the African National Congress, Namibia's SWAPO and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The East Germans are also suspected of training the Katangan rebels who invaded Shaba province in Zaire eight years ago. Several months before the 1977 invasion, French intelligence informed Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko that an incursion was imminent and was being directed by three East Germans and 72 Cubans.

North Vietnam before 1975 also relied on East German expertise in handling interrogations of prisoners, according to Australian press reports.

A defector from the Nicaraguan security service, Miguel Bolanos, has stated that in 1983 there were 40 to 50 East German security advisers working with the 2,800 to 3,000 Nicaraguans in the state security bureau known as DGSE.

Besides East Germans, there are 20 to 25 Bulgarian intelligence officers described as "expert analysts in matters of counterintelligence," Mr. Bolanos said.

"The F-2 section, which [conducts] surveillance of foreign embassies, has several East German advisers," Mr. Bolanos said in an 1983 interview with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. He said the East Germans run electronic surveillance operations against European embassies in Managua.

"East Germany has provided Nicaragua with their latest surveillance and bugging equipment," Mr. Bolanos said. He also counted 400 Cuban, 70 Soviet and 20 to 25 Bulgarian intelligence advisers.

Steven David, a Johns Hopkins University professor who is an

expert on the Soviet use of proxy forces, believes the East German security presence in the Third World provides a strong deterrent against possible coups that could result in anti-Soviet or pro-Western regimes.

"It is interesting to note that since the mid-1960s no pro-Western coups have occurred in pro-Soviet countries," Mr. David said in an interview.

He said East Germans in the Third World "come in much smaller numbers" than Cuban forces, which are more involved in direct conflicts in addition to serving as a "de facto counter-coup force."

"The East Germans are not that; their contribution is setting up and training these intelligence organizations — and in many cases dominating them," Mr. David said. "They've established secret police forces and to a great extent dominate them."

"Why aren't the Angolas, the Ethiopias, the South Yemens, turning to the West?" he asked. "A major reason is these proxies."

Dr. David said East German advisers were also believed to be behind several attempts on the life of the late Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat.

A major factor motivating East Germany's global adventurism is the idea of "serving the cause of international communism" through its intelligence and counter-coup efforts, a role the East German Communist Party openly has recognized and praised. They also play a pivotal role in Soviet global strategy, Mr. David said.

Figures vary widely, but as of the late 1970s, the number of East German security advisers was estimated at 3,000 worldwide, including 650 in Libya and Algeria. Some Libyan exiles claim East Germans in Libya number several thousand.

There are an estimated 1,575 East German military advisers in Africa, according to a 1983 study by the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

One knowledgeable U.S. official said revolutionary Marxist states have turned to East Germany for everything from training and equipment to the tactics for building

Continued

police forces designed to consolidate power for fledgling revolutionary regimes.

The East Germans train Third World regimes in the efficient use of police forces for controlling populations.

The East Germans also train local security personnel in intelligence collection techniques, such as electronic surveillance, the methods used to recruit agents and training tactics for uniformed police.

"We're talking about controlling the domestic population, and that's just a nasty business — the less of it the better," the official said.

He said East German intelligence advisers pose a major problem for U.S. policy makers. U.S. officials have discussed the issue with the East Germans, he said without elaborating.

Admitting that details of East German security training are highly secret, the official said there has been no recent increase in global activities. He attributed the leveling off to the general easing of U.S.-Soviet tensions.

Besides security advisers, East Germany also supplies some military equipment, especially in Africa, to a host of revolutionary regimes and movements. In Nicaragua, U.S. officials estimate the East Germans, besides security advisers, have provided hundreds of military vehicles — jeeps, trucks and personnel carriers — to the Sandinista army.

Since 1983 East Germany also has hosted cadres of Iranian pilots who received flight training in MiG-19 fighters, according to the trade magazine Aviation Week. There have also been reports that in Libya, East Germans, along with Czechoslovakians, helped train Col. Qaddafi's 10,000-man Islamic Corps of international troops who serve as an expeditionary force.

According to several intelligence experts, the East Germans control Libya's intelligence service, providing protection to Col. Qaddafi, and have helped the Libyans track down dissidents targeted for assassination.